

QUARTERS No. 211  
(Castillo De San Christobal, Quarters No. 211)  
San Juan National Historic Site  
Boulevard Norzagaray  
San Juan  
San Juan County  
Puerto Rico

HABS No. PR-97

HABS  
PR  
7-SAJU,  
52-

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington D.C. 20013-7127

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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Location: Boulevard Norzagaray  
Present Owner: U.S. National Park Service  
Present Use: Residence

### Historical Information:

Constructed after 1783 and before 1842<sup>1</sup> presumably during the early 19th century. The building is shown on the 1842 model of San Christobal<sup>2</sup>, and on the 1861 plan when it is labeled Hierreria (Blacksmith's Shop). Used as such by the Spanish Artillery Corps and the Engineers until the 1880s<sup>3</sup> when it was converted into Spanish military quarters. Presumably, the extension to the east dates mainly from this period, however, the fabric of the building indicates several different periods of construction.

### Architectural Information:

The Building is a one-story stuccoed masonry structure, 3 bays by 7 bays measuring approximately 39'- 6" by 77'- 0", with a flat concrete slab roof (1930s) behind a parapet wall varying in height from 2'- 4" to 4'- 2".

It stands on a level plateau cut out of the sloping terrain southwest of San Christobal. The narrow west end of the building faces on Boulevard Norzagaray that slopes to the south. The floor level of the building is 1'- 2" above the street at the northwest corner and 6'- 3" at the southwest corner. From the floor level to top of parapet, the structure measures 18'- 3". The north and south elevations stand free of the terrain for three full lengths while the east end is built into the terrain and serves as a retaining wall for the higher grounds behind the structure. The architectural treatment of the facades are limited to the west elevation on Boulevard Norzagaray and the south elevations.

The architectural treatment consists of a simple projecting band on the corners, parapet and windows with an accentuated base. The street elevation is additionally furnished with a projecting molded cornice and horizontal molded window heads above decorative panels with center rosettes. On the south side an enclosed concrete porch, roofed in spanish tile has been added in front of the second, third and fourth bay. The addition appears to have been made in the 1930s.

A small L shaped building roofed in spanish tile (1930s) set against the retaining walls to the north and

east of the plateau is part of Quarters No. 211 but separate from the main structure. Between the two structures a doorway in the retaining wall gives access to a tunnel leading southwest to the outworks of San Christobal. The doorway is flanked by two pilasters supporting a frieze and a triangular pediment.

The architectural treatment of the entrance is partially covered by the late construction of the two buildings flanking the entrance and it is also evident that the details of the moldings, etc. have been considerable coarsened through successive and insensitive repairs and maintenance efforts.

Prepared By:

Frederik C. Gjessing, Architect 1964  
Virgin Islands National Park  
P.O. Box 1707  
St. Thomas, V.I.

Edited By:

Thomas M. Behrens, Architect 1994  
U.S. Department of The Interior  
National Park Service  
HABS/HAER Division  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

1. Juan De Mastres Plan of San Christobal 1783 (copy in library of San Juan National Historic Site).
2. Copy of 1842 model of San Christobal by Master Building now in Spanish Military Museum, Madrid, San Juan National Historic Site.
3. Proyecto de Reparacion y Reforma de Los Pabellones de Artilleria Plan of 1880, Archives de Los Indios (copy San Juan National Historic Site).